(d) whether Government would share all the costs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for unviersalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Some of the major components of the proposed scheme are, (i) new schools buildings, (ii) additional rooms including classrooms, laboratories, computer room, library room, toilet etc., (iii) teaching-learning aids, (iv) School grant (v) teachers' in service training (vi) additional teachers, (vii) research and innovation, (viii) curricular reforms and (ix) Examinations reforms etc. The proposed scheme envisages sharing of costs between Central Government and State/UT Governments.

Unutilized budget of IGNOU

1753. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that IGNOU has not been able to utilize the annual budget allocations;

if so, the details thereof during the last five years and the reasons for under-utilization;

whether it is also a fact that IGNOU has not been able to achieve annual physical targets stating the achievement for current and previous years, as against the annual targets; and

how many Village Knowledge and resource Centres have been opened against annual target during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Budget allocation for Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) under Plan Head and the releases made against them for last five years is as under:

(Rs in crore)

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Budget Estimates (Rs)	67.00	67.00	67.00	60.00	100.00
Revised estimates (Rs)	35.30	20.00	67.00	60.00	95.05
Grant released including unspent balance of yester year. (Rs)	35.30	20.00	69.00	56.40	104.00
Expendtiure as reported by IGNOU. (Rs)	11.17	28.75	55.29	65.70	73.53

The figures for the years 2004-05 and 2006-07, in the above table, indicates that grant has been released to IGNOU in said years in accordance with the Budget allocations. However, lesser utilization of allocated budget in the years 2002-03,2003-04 and 2005-06 was due to late approval of Tenth Plan proposals by Expenditure Finance Committee.

IGNOU has informed that the University has been able to achieve annual physical targets.

The establishment of Village Knowledge and Resource Centres has not been quantified as annual target during last three years including the current year.

Expert committee to examine fee structure

1754. SHRI T.T.V. DH1NAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is proposed to set up an expert committee to examine the fee structure in all schools, including private schools and higher educational institutions, including technical institutions, and recommend suitable and affordable fee structure;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The UGC has already constituted an Expert Committee headed by Prof. B.S. Sonde, former Vice-Chancel lor, Goa University to frame regulations for admission and fee structure in Unviersities and other institutions, including Private self-financed Deemed Unviersities and colleges. However, there is no such proposal to set up an Expert Committee for CBSE affiliated schools as the Rules and affiliation rules CBSE mandate that the fees charged should be commensurate with the facilities provided e institution and no capitation fee or voluntary donations for gaining admission in the school should be charged.

Drop-out rate

1755. DR.GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

the drop-out rates at V, VIII, X and XII stages, in the country/States, showing SC/ST boys/girls and Gross Enrolment Ratio of students in higher education;

the findings of the study by the World Bank and Harvard University, 2004;

whether there is some correlation between drop-out rates, teacher absenteeism, low pupil-teacher ratio, and untrained teachers; and

whether the above scenario is alarming, and how it reflects on the performance of SSA?

THE MTNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Details showing gender-wise drop-out rate of SO ST students in classes I-V, I-VIII & I-X and Gross Enorlment Ratio of students of higher education are given in Statement-I, II & III. *(See* below)

(b) to (d) The Study of World Bank and Harvard Unviersity, 2004 is on teacher absence in India and not on drop-outs. There are various socio-economic and school related factors that effect drop-out. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a national programme in which, *inter-alia,* one of the goals specify retention of all children of 6-14 years of age up to the elementary level by 2010.